

North Grampian

Including North and West Cairngorms National Park, Monadhliath, Ben Alder, Creag Meagaidh, Loch Ericht and Loch Rannoch

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Wednesday 20 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Thursday 21 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 20 Dec 2023 at 02:50 by Met Office Aberdeen

Confidence: High for an unsettled weather pattern on lead up to Christmas. Very windy conditions will make walking difficult over higher ridges and summits with storm force winds on Thursday.

Headline for Wednesday 20 Dec 2023: Cloudy. Outbreaks of rain, early snow higher peaks. Very windy and feeling bitterly cold.

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 20 Dec 2023

Blizzards

No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow

No Likelihood

Storm force winds

Low Likelihood

Gales

High Likelihood

Severe chill effect

High Likelihood

Poor visibility

Medium Likelihood

Thunderstorms

No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain

No Likelihood

Strong sunlight

No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
					
Cloudy	Sleet	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Light rain	Heavy Rain
Precipitation probability					
20%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%

Forecast for Wednesday 20 Dec 2023

Weather: Cloudy with showers then more persistent rain extending east soon after dawn. Snow initially above 800m, turning to rain at all levels by afternoon. Some heavier rain for western ranges such as Creag Meagaidh but staying lighter, patchy over northern Cairngorms and east of area.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Little chance in west of area but 30% in sheltered north and east.

Low cloud and visibility: Misty conditions soon developing, especially in the west with poor visibility in persistent rain and also in clouds which will be well down the hills. Pockets of good visibility in north and east of area with cloud bases about 700 to 900m.

Forecast for Wednesday 20 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)				Wind Direction (blowing from)		
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1300	44/55 NW	31/40 W	38/51 W	37/50 W	39/54 W	43/60 W	54/74 W
900	33/39 W	25/30 W	32/40 W	31/40 W	34/45 W	37/49 W	48/63 W
600	22/27 W	18/23 SW	21/29 SW	19/27 W	24/34 W	26/38 W	33/47 W
300	6/19 W	7/16 SW	7/19 SW	10/25 W	11/27 W	13/30 SW	18/40 W
Glen	3/24 W	3/18 SW	5/24 W	4/23 W	6/29 W	8/35 W	8/37 W

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1300	-5/-17	-4/-13	-1/-10	-0/-9	1/-8	0/-9	0/-9
900	-2/-11	-0/-8	2/-6	3/-4	4/-3	4/-4	3/-5
600	1/-6	1/-5	4/-2	5/-0	6/0	6/0	6/-1
300	2/-1	3/-0	4/1	6/3	7/4	8/4	8/4
Glen	2/1	2/1	5/4	8/6	9/6	8/5	9/5
Freezing Level*	500m	700m	1300m	1500m	1600m	1500m	1500m

*Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.

Met Office Aberdeen Meteorologist's View

Feeling bitterly cold with very strong, gusty winds making walking very difficult. Note winds expected to increase to storm force during evening.

Forecast for Thursday 21 Dec 2023

Weather: A very windy and cold day with bright spells and blustery showers. The showers turning increasingly to snow above about 500m.

Maximum wind: Severe gale force west or Northwest winds reaching storm force on the tops. Average speeds of 50 to 60mph with gusts 90mph but in excess of 100mph over Cairngorm summit.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 40%

Low cloud and visibility: Occasionally good visibility with occasional cloud cover above 700 to 800m. Marked reductions to poor visibility as showers pass by with clouds briefly lower down the hills.

Temperature: **Glens:** Plus 7 Celsius.
At 800m: Plus 4 Celsius falling to Minus 2 Celsius.
Freezing level: 1100m falling to 600m.